

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 04986 241347Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----100650 241348Z /64

P 241231Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8532
INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

S E C R E T TEHRAN 04986

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, SO, US
SUBJ: MILITARY SALES TO SOMALIA

REF: STATE 130814

1. I RAISED QUESTION OF MILITARY SALES TO SOMALIA IN AUDIENCE
WITH SHAH MORNING MAY 24. SHAH WAS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT WE
WERE CONTEMPLATING SOME MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SIAD BARRE.

2. HE SAID HE AGREED, IN PRINCIPLE, THAT SIAD BARRE SHOULD
KEEP THE PEACE AND REFRAIN FROM SENDING REGULAR SOMILA MILITARY
UNITS INTO THE OGADEN. HOWEVER, HE FELT IT WAS TOO MUCH TO
ASK THAT SOMALIS REFRAIN FROM ALL LOGISTICS AND MATERIEL SUPPORT
TO THEIR SOMALI BRETHERN IN THE OGADEN.

3. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE U.S., FOR CONGRESSIONAL AND
OTHER REASONS, HAD TO INSIST THAT WEAPONS OF U.S. ORIGIN NOT
BE TRANSFERRED TO THE LIBERATION FRONT. HOWEVER, HE
DOUBTED WISDOM OF RESTRAINING SOMALIS FROM SUPPLYING ANY
WEAPONS OF OTHER ORIGIN TO OGADEN.

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4. CONSEQUENTLY, BEFORE AGREEING TO MAKE ANY DEMARCHE TO
SOMALIS, HE WISHED CLARIFICATION OF U.S. POSITION. HE
SPECIFICALLY WISHED TO KNOW WHETHER WE WERE ASKING HIM TO
TRY TO PERSUADE SIAD BARRE TO CUT OFF ALL RPT ALL SUPPORT TO
"LIBERATION FRONT" IF SO, HE CONSIDERED THIS UNREALISTIC.

5. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF WE ARE MERELY ASKING HIM TO PERSUADE
SIAD BARRE TO KEEP REGULAR SOMALI TROOPS OUT OF THE OGADEN,
HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO DO THAT. HE SAID SOMALI AMBASSADOR
HAD BEEN ASKING FOR AN AUDIENCE, WHICH HE HAS STALLED.
HOWEVER, HE WOULD PROBABLY SEE HIM NEXT WEEK AND COULD MAKE SOME
EFFORT AT THAT TIME.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE CLARIFY U.S. POSITION SOONEST,
SO THAT SHAH CAN HAVE IT IN HAND WHEN HE MEETS SOMALI AMBASSADOR
NEXT WEEK.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

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